



Arkansas Division of  
**Workforce Services**

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

# ARS Success Stories

**August 2023**

## Chloe Wood

Chloe Wood's journey with ARS recently started as a high school student participating in the Arkansas Career Development Center (ACDC) CNA program through Fayetteville High School.



During her time in the program, Chloe excelled and proved herself to be an asset to the class. She actively participated in class review games. During her clinical, she was observed helping her preceptor CNA in resident care.

Chloe was afforded the opportunity to work both Memory Care and Skilled Care, which helped her gain valuable experience in different areas of nursing. She was scheduled to take the Skills exam on August 3, 2023, and is also studying to take the Knowledge exam as well.

With 136 hours of training under her belt, Chloe has already completed her training for Alzheimer's and Dementia through ACDC. She is proud of her accomplishments thus far and is excited to enter her Senior year of High School and continue her progress towards independence through the assistance of ARS!

Chloe and her mother are grateful for the support and assistance that ARS has provided along the way. They are excited to see where Chloe's nursing career takes her in the future.





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## **Crystal Smith**

As an ARS client back in 2019, Crystal Smith was unsure of what she wanted to do or where she wanted to go. As someone who had always been passionate about helping others, she considered pursuing a career in personal care and service work. However, her initial attempts at this line of work were met with roadblocks - issues related to vendors, transportation, and personal concerns amid COVID-19 - that left her feeling stuck.



But Crystal refused to let these challenges defeat her. After skills training and soft skill development, she was eventually drawn to the role of Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendant. Months of preparation and hard work later, Crystal hired as a cafeteria aide with Aramark!

With the help of ARS and Pathfinder Inc., she had obtained and maintained supported employment in a competitive, integrated setting. Finally, she was able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others while building a successful career for herself.



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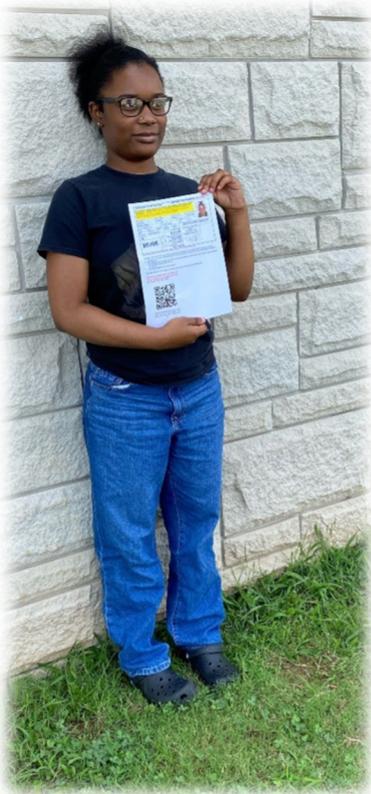
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## **LaKaria Johnson**

LaKaria Johnson discovered ARS as a student at Fayetteville High School where she participated in Arkansas Career Development Center's (ACDC) CNA program. Her exceptional performance in the last portion of the class is a testament to her work ethic and her desire to succeed.



LaKaria's dedication was evident during the virtual days of the program. She was one of the first to log in and actively participate in the review games and discussions. Her willingness to listen and take notes is a clear indication of her dedication to learning and growth.

During her clinicals, her compassion and empathy shone through. She treated the residents with respect and care, which was evident to her evaluator. Her evaluator commented that empathy is a skill that cannot be taught, and LaKaria possesses it.

Although she did not pass her knowledge exam, she is not discouraged, and she plans to continue studying and retaking the exam. Her completion of 136 hours of training for Certified Nursing Assistants and her training for Alzheimer's and

Dementia through ACDC is an impressive achievement and speaks to her dedication to the field.

LaKaria's commitment to excellence extends beyond her studies. Through the assistance of ARS and ACDC, she was also able to obtain her Learner's Permit. Her mother and she are both grateful to ARS for their assistance in achieving these milestones and excited to continue her journey towards independence.





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## **Mary Phillips**

Mary Phillips has never let her challenges define her. Her congenital heart disease has not stopped her from achieving her dreams. Her medical condition made it challenging for her to find employment that suited her abilities and needs. But, through Arkansas Rehab Services, she was able to meet with a vocational rehabilitation counselor who developed a plan to assist her with vocational training.

With the counselor's help, Mary enrolled at the University of Arkansas. She worked tirelessly to complete her degree and her dedication paid off as she was soon employed as an administrative specialist at Fundamental Management Solutions.

Mary has proved to be a vital asset to the team at Fundamental Management Solutions. Even though her medical condition may require more of her, she still ensures her work needs are met.